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Contact:  
John Hughey  
Public Relations Manager  
Center for the Performing Arts  
Email: [jhughey@carmelpac.org](mailto:jhughey@carmelpac.org)  
Phone: 317.660.3377

**THE PALLADIUM TO BE ONE-OF-A-KIND, TOP QUALITY VENUE FOR REGION**

***Indianapolis (Feb. 11, 2010)*** – In its design, quality and versatility, The Palladium, the 1,600-seat concert hall at the Center for the Performing Arts, will be in a class by itself said Executive Director, Steven Libman.

“One of our primary goals is for the concert hall to have the highest-quality acoustics,” said Libman. “When completed, The Palladium will rank among the world’s greatest music venues, rivaling those in Vienna, Amsterdam, Boston and New York City.”

To accomplish this, the city of Carmel engaged a world-class design team which includes David M. Schwarz/Architectural Services, Inc. of Washington, D.C. as Design Architect, Artec Consultants Inc. of New York as Acoustics and Theatre Planning Consultant and Indiana-based CSO Schenkel Schultz as Architect of Record. Shiel Sexton, of Indianapolis, is the project’s Construction Manager.

Schwarz, who drew inspiration for the design of The Palladium from Andrea Palladio’s world-famous villa, “La Rotunda,” is known for his classical design approach. His body of work includes the Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth; Severance Hall, Cleveland; and the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville.

Artec, which specializes in design and planning services for performing arts facilities, is recognized worldwide for its superior acoustic and technical planning, lending its expertise to such musical landmarks as the Bartók National Concert Hall, Palace of Arts, Budapest, Hungary; Sala São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil; The Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Costa Mesa, Calif.; and the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, TX.

“The Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts will be a unique facility in the Indianapolis area and the only true concert hall in the entire state,” said Chair of the board, Rollin M. Dick. “The closest concert hall would be the Schermerhorn in Nashville, Tenn., which is a beautiful facility that our architect, David Schwarz, also designed.”

The concert hall will house an adjustable acoustic canopy system made of space framing and large, thick shapes of glass for superior sound. Other features contributing to the high-quality acoustics and audience accommodations include:

- A “single room” design that places performers and audience in the same place.
- A traditional “shoe box” shape, with high ceilings and massive, sound-reflecting walls.
- Surface detailing that creates sound reflection at different frequencies, enhancing reverberance.
- Audience seating behind the performance platform.
- Narrow side ledges for vast sightlines.

The Palladium will require 5,000 pieces of steel to construct and 15,000 pieces of Indiana limestone to clad. There will be seating for 1,600 patrons, with approximately half of those being located on the main

floor. More than 600 patrons will have access to multiple-level box seats with amenities like private anterooms. The facility will also have seven accessible exterior terraces located on all sides of the building, adding to The Palladium's grandeur.

Designed to accommodate a variety of musical performances, The Palladium will host large ensembles that require natural acoustics, such as Symphony orchestras, as well as small ensembles, choruses and solo performers. The Palladium will also present a full range of popular music, country and western, R&B, jazz and the Great American Songbook.

"The acoustics and overall experience for the audience and performers in The Palladium will be second to none thanks to our incredible architectural design team and acousticians," said Mayor of Carmel, Jim Brainard. "It will serve as an attraction for audiences and top performers alike, making the Center an important cultural and economic asset for decades to come."

The grand opening of The Palladium is slated for Jan. 29, 2011, with a weeklong celebration marking its opening. Festivities will include an open house and performances by an impressive array of internationally-known entertainers as well as local groups, culminating with a black tie event.

*The Center for the Performing Arts, which is currently under construction in The Carmel City Center, will include The Palladium, a 500-seat proscenium theater, a 200-seat studio theater and an outdoor amphitheater. Set for completion in January of 2011, no other concert hall of The Palladium's caliber exists in the area. The Center is being built to serve as a permanent fixture on the Central Indiana landscape and will provide an extraordinary listening experience for audiences. The Palladium will also be home to Michael Feinstein's Great American Songbook Collection, acting as a museum and education center by day and a concert venue by night.*

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